

Reply To Requirement For Election Of Species

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is a generic claim which is broad enough to comprise polypeptides of SEQ ID NOs. 1-10. Therefore, Applicants request clarification about the Examiner's requirement to choose amongst the sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 5, 6, 7 and 8 when electing the claims of Group I for prosecution.

Applicants respectfully request that they be permitted to provisionally elect SEQ ID NO: 1 as the species to be prosecuted without traverse. Claims 2-8 are dependent upon claim 1 in which SEQ ID NO: 1 is claimed. If SEQ ID NO: 1 cannot be elected, Applicants would then provisionally elect the SEQ ID NO: 5 as the species to be prosecuted with traverse.

The sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 is a generic sequence, in which a single position (amino acid 1) may be substituted by one of only three possible amino acids (desamino Gly, desamino Ser and desamino Ala). SEQ ID NOs: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 are all specific embodiments of SEQ ID NO: 1 or truncations thereof. Applicants note that the Examiner listed SEQ ID NO: 1 as a possible choice of species for Groups II and V. Applicants assert that SEQ ID NO: 1 should have been a choice for Group I as well. Further, it places no undue burden on the Examiner to search all of the above mentioned sequences.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Requirement for Election of Species, and consideration and allowance of all pending claims, are respectfully requested.

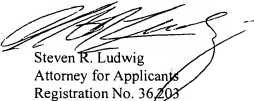
It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby

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petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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